

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: February 22, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff and the community:

Council Business

- *Goal-Setting Retreat* – Staff has sent an email to the Council to check availability for a goal-setting retreat on Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please respond at your earliest convenience.
- *Mansfield Board of Education Budget* – [Item no. 10](#) in your Council packet is a communication from Superintendent Kelly Lyman regarding the Board of Education's adoption of its Proposed FY 2016/17 Budget.
- *Medical Transportation for Mansfield Residents at MCNR* – At the February 9, 2016 meeting, the Council heard from residents regarding senior transportation issues. I have started to work on this issue with staff and will have a report to the Town Council for its March 28, 2016 meeting.
- *Sale of E.O. Smith High School Campus to UCONN* – At the last meeting, I reported that the Region 19 Board of Education has authorized its Superintendent of Schools to explore the sale of the current EO Smith High School campus on Storrs Road to the University of Connecticut. The Region would plan to use the proceeds of the sale along with a state school construction grant to offset the cost of constructing a new high school at the University's Depot Campus on Route 44 in Mansfield. The Town Council agreed with my suggestion that we invite the Region 19 Building Committee to meet with the Council to discuss its plans; the Region has declined this invitation seeing it as premature because it does not yet have project details. As the host community, Mansfield will likely be affected by a transaction between the Region and UCONN. While a new high school campus may prove beneficial to the community, there are land use and financial issues to consider, as well as other factors. The Region is contemplating a November 2016 referendum, which will come quickly. Consequently, I recommend that the Town Council, in concert with the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC), begin to examine the potential impacts of a sale of the EO Smith campus to the university. I will convene a meeting with the Mayor and PZC Chair to discuss ways to best approach this issue and will report back to the Council soon.
- *UCONN Enrollment* – The UCONN administration will attend the March 14, 2016 meeting of the Council to discuss the university's current enrollment projections.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Four Corners Environmental Impact Evaluation* – On February 2, 2016, the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) posted the Four Corners Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) in the *Environmental Monitor*, the state's official site for project information. The public can view a copy of the EIE at the Mansfield Town Clerk's Office or online on the Town's website. **There will be a Public Hearing for this project on March 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber at the Beck Municipal Building.** Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on March 18, 2016. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Carlos Esguerra, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127. If you have questions about the public hearing, where you can review this EIE, or other questions about this project, please contact the Mansfield Department of Public Works at 860-429-3331.

Upcoming Events

- *AARP's Tax Aide Assistance* – Mansfield Senior Center's AARP's Tax-Aide program provides free tax preparation to taxpayers with low to moderate income, with special attention to those 60 and older. Appointments available Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 2 through April 7. Call 860-429-0262 for an appointment.
- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Farmers Market is open year-round! The Winter Market will be open twice a month from December through April in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library. Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on the following dates: Feb 27; Mar 12 and 26; and Apr 9 and 23. Everything sold at Storrs Winter Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut, so the offerings change with the seasons. Visit storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information and to sign up for weekly emails from the Market (bi-weekly in the winter).
- *Valentine's Dance* – Mansfield Parks & Recreation's annual Valentine's Dance for parents/guardians and daughters was rescheduled to February 26th at 7:00 PM in the UCONN Rome Ballroom. Pre-registration with the Parks and Recreation Department is encouraged. Daughters are free!

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, February 23, 2016, 9:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Climate Action Task Force, February 23, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, February, 25, 2016, 5:30 PM, , Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, March 2, 2016, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Parks Advisory Committee, March 2, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, March 3, 2016, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland-Wetland Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, March 7, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, March 8, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, March 9, 2016, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ad hoc Police Services Committee, March 10, 2016, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, March 10, 2016, 6:30 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, March 14, 2016, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, March 14, 2016, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, March 14, 2016, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*